

Message Text

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62

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-10 FDRE-00 AID-05 SR-02 ORM-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

INR-07 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 DPW-01 SCA-01

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9775

UNCLAS USUN 1089

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, VS, VN

SUBJECT: CATHOLIC STATEMENT ON VIETNAM REFUGEES

1. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE US CATHOLIC CONFERENCE (COM-
PRISING BISHOPS OF ALL SEES) ISSUED FOLLOWING PRESS STATEMENT
EARLY AFTERNOON APRIL 4. TEXT BEING SENT BY TELEGRAM TO PRESI-
DENT FORD, SYG WALDHEIM, SECRETARY KISSINGER AND AMBASSADOR
SCALI.

2. TEXT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE: WE ARE REASSURED BY THE STATEMENTS OF PRESIDENT
FORD YESTERDAY PLEDGING THE FULL COOPERATION OF OUR GOVERNMENT
TO ASSIST IN THE EVACUATION OF WAR ORPHANS, THE ABANDONED
CHILDREN AND ENDANGERED FAMILIES OF SOUTH VIETNAM. WE PLEDGE
THE UTMOST CONTINUING EFFORT OF THE CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES,
THE MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES OF THE U.S. CATHOLIC CON-
FERENCE AND, INDEED, OF THE ENTIRE AMERICAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
TO MEET THIS URGENT HUMANITARIAN CHALLENGE. CATHOLIC RELIEF
SERVICES AND OTHER VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TODAY CARE FOR MORE THAN
4,000 ADOPTABLE ORPHANED AND ABANDONED CHILDREN IN SOUTH VIET-
NAM. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT OUR GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE
FOR THESE CHILDREN TO BE FLOWN TO THE US WHERE HOMES AND HEARTS
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ARE OPEN TO THEM AND THAT IT WILL SHOW TO THEM THE SAME GENERO-

SITY THAT OUR GOVERNMENT AFFORDED REFUGEES FROM CUBA AND
HUNGARY.

QUOTE: AT THIS CRITICAL MOMENT OF SUFFERING AND FAMILY DIS-
RUPTION IN SOUTH VIETNAM, WE URGE THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE
LEADERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO USE ALL
THEIR GOOD OFFICES TO PERSUADE THE PARTIES INVOLVED
IN SOUTHEAST ASIA TO PERMIT THE HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS OF
NATIONS AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES TO BRING RELIEF TO THESE
FAMILIES AND THE MASSES OF REFUGEES AND TO ALLOW THEM TO
REACH PLACES OF SAFETY. END QUOTE.
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